Middlebrook PTA Meeting

April 24, 2014

1. Call to Order – Middlebrook School @ 9am
2. Approval of March 2014 Minutes
3. Principal’s Report – Maria Coleman
   1. April 4, Darren Gunn, sixth grade teacher and team leader, demonstrated quick-thinking and heroism when he performed the Heimlich maneuver on a male student in his tutorial class.  The student appeared to be in distress and could not respond when Mr. Gunn asked him if he was choking.  After quickly assessing the situation, Mr. Gunn performed the life-saving act on the child, dislodging what appeared to be a small piece of paper from his throat.  The child was immediately brought to the nurse, who confirmed that his airways were clear.  Although he was visibly shaken by the experience, the child was relieved to have recovered.  His mother picked him up directly from the nurse’s office.  This incident is a reminder of the numerous ways that teachers positively impact the lives of students!
   2. On Monday, April 7th, Wilton Public Schools’ Fine and Performing Arts Department hosted its tenth annual International Art Exchange. Ninety students from Middlebrook School exchanged artwork with students from The Gambia, Jordan, and Russia. The theme for this year was “Food for Thought,” and artwork was showcased in the Zellner Gallery of Wilton High School. In addition, talented student musicians from Cider Mill, Middlebrook, and Wilton High School performed. We also welcomed dancers from the Conservatory of Dance. All parents, students, and community members in attendance enjoyed a very memorable evening.
   3. Middlebrook School is proud to announce the three students whose essays were selected for submission to the annual Laws of Life essay contest, sponsored by the School for Ethical Education. Cameron Berg, Anna Onnerude, and Erin Sweeney wrote essays about the importance of sportsmanship, citing examples from history, the media, and their own personal experiences. Cameron Berg was ultimately selected as one of ten state-wide winners for this contest. Congratulations to Cameron!
   4. This past winter, Middlebrook Language Arts teachers encouraged students to participate in the optional National Law Day contest. The contest, which celebrates National Law Day every May 1st, is organized through the American Bar Association. This year’s theme focused on what voting means to our country and its citizens. We are pleased to announce that seventh grade student, Alex Stroup, was honored with a 1st place essay. A ceremony for winners will be held on April 25th at the superior courthouse in Stamford. Congratulations to Alex!
   5. Monday, April 21st, WPS hosted Tech Expo 5.0. Teachers and students presented a range of technology programs and apps being used in the classroom, from Lego robotics, to SMART Music, to iPad applications.
   6. Steve Pierce, Parks and Recreation Update – When we have a proposal for a new playground, just send them a drawing of it. If we decide to invest in a playground, use a reputable company and get the installation included. Parks and Recreation will maintain it over time, but do not contribute to funding in any way.
4. Teacher Representative – Luisa Nanos

***6G***

* This Friday, Six Green will have a team day, with a Greek mythology-related assembly in the morning and a charity walk-a-thon in the afternoon, with the team-selected March of Dimes as our charity.
* On May 8th, Six Green will take a field trip to the Yale University Art Gallery; we will also have a special team lunch together.
* On May 16th, Six Green will perform in a series of Greek plays during our Greek Festival.

***6Y***

* Six Yellow students are raising money and walking for the Make-A-Wish Foundation during this Friday’s Grade 6 Walk-A-Thon.
* On May 6th, students will be going on a field trip to the Yale Art Gallery followed by lunch at Thali Too Indian restaurant in New Haven.
* Students will audition next week for the Greco-Roman Festival and will find out the parts in the plays that they will rehearse and perform in May. The performance is on May 22nd.

***6R***

* Team 6 Red beginning...
  + Independent Student Project-self-selected research topics that will guide students through four weeks of interdisciplinary research instruction, culminating with the presentation of their final display on Closing House night
  + Greek Festival - students have auditioned and are presently being assigned to roles for our Friday, June 6th Greek Festival plays, skits, and debate

***7G***

* RWW classes are being introduced to the context of the Diary of Anne Frank by researching the Holocaust in preparation to begin reading, focusing on what we can do to stop such travesties from occurring.
* English classes are preparing to read Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by learning about that time

period: rural Mississippi during the Great Depression.

***7R***

* English: Students will be continuing their study of English grammar to help them improve their speaking and writing.
* World Geography: Students will soon be starting our UN/Latin America project.
* RWW: Students are reading *Anne Frank* and discussing the causes and effects of the Holocaust.
* Science: Students will be completing our "Brown Out" lab as they study the oxidation of apple slices and then move on to study cell processes.
* World Language: Students will be studying the preterite tense as they recall past vacations and what they did during them.
* Math7: Students are studying direct and indirect proportion.
* Advanced Math 7: Students are studying geometric construction.
* Algebra: Students are in the middle of a unit on quadratic and exponential functions.

***7Y***

* Student choice is at the forefront while students demonstrate their skills and knowledge - for example working on the Model United Nations project in Social Studies and choosing their own novel in English class literature circles
* Choice also arises in solving math through multiple approaches, attempting to reach their individualized goals by June 1st (an RWW assignment), and truly choosing words, in another language, to express themselves
* To help them with choices down the road, the students also saw the disgusting residue left from smoking a cigarette - a science class demonstration

***8R***

* Starting team service project: **Restoring Middlebrook's Memorials,** a continuation of work done by the past 3 8RED teams to respectfully restore and maintain the memorial sites found at our school.
* Variety of 'big' units, including To Kill a Mockingbird and The Great Depression.

***8Y***

* Finished STEM Bridge Unit
* Studied the three lines of defense of the Immune System
* Beginning project called "The Immune System Saves the Day!"
* will review forces, motion, Newton's Laws, and amusement park physics for Lake Compounce trip on June 5

***8G***

* We are going to Philadelphia on Thurs. the 24th and are busy preparing for our trip.
* In Science, the students will be creating power points, booklets and / or posters for their creative project “ Immune System Saves the Day”.
* In RWW, students are wrapping up To Kill A Mockingbird. This has been an extremely intensive and involved unit. Looking forward to seeing their final poems, sculptures or pieces of art based in the novel!

**Officer Reports:**

1. President’s Report – Savet Constantine

* BOE will cut $750k, need for cuts unfortunate, money has to be cut from somewhere. We have had a lean budget since 2009. Encourage everyone to write to BOE/BOF. Cuts are shown on BOE site.
* Miller Driscoll school renovation vote is set for Sept 23/27, 2014.
* PTA limited on emailing info about the budget or promoting to vote on budget. Only can state basic facts in weekly newsletter.
* Fundraising-anyone interested please encourage to join or sportswear or 6th grade fun night.
* We will be having a welcoming for the new Superintendent. The PTA voted and approved the proposal to give $200 for event’s reception.

Vice President-Pam Hickey

* Vote for new equipment passed. We are getting:

-18 kickballs, 18 soccer balls, 6 footballs& jumping ropes. Total $725.

Treasurer – Maria Wilcox

* Teen Grants- new scanner (Carol Green)
* $56 credit for spiritwear
* Library $4.5k for books
* Karen T. who manages paying for field trips for students who struggle with fee asked for an increase in funds. We are giving $750 for outreach. Excess will roll over for next year.
* Still on track for 30k balance for grants.
* PTA members only participate in gifts/grants.

Parent-At-Large – Stacy Crameri

* BOE meeting tonight- vote on what to cut
* May 5th/May 10th town vote (please be aware)
* Radon report Miller-Driscoll 0.3-1.7 pCi/l this limit is good. 4.0 pCi/l is level for corrective action.
* Newly elected HR person Susan Pully – BOE
* Parent comments about condition of basketball court conditions and refinishing gym.
* Wiltonbulletin.com has list of BOE cuts
* Board committee is creating an incentive for new superintendent.

Fundraising:

Discussion of fundraising responsibilities:

* Fundraising appeal letter: We will mail the fundraising appeal to the incoming 6th graders with the August Messenger. Mailing labels provided by the school. We will e-mail the fundraising appeal to the 7th & 8th graders. Promote fundraising at the 6th grade orientation, walk -thru's and Open House. Follow up e-mail to everyone within 3 weeks of initial mailing.
* Sale of Wrapping paper or coupon book, details to be determined.

Fundraising Goal is to:

* Raise enough funds to built a new playground at Middlebrook
* Sponsor educational programs such as Shakesperience, the Science Fair, Tech Expo.
* Organize and fund activity nights for 6th & 7th grade, Soaring Ahead and 8th grade dinner dance and lastly the teachers appreciation week.

Hospitality

• Teacher Appreciation week is next week, anyone can help/donate:

Tues: Breakfast, Wed: Lunch, Thurs: desserts

1. Adjournment